

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-7 are amended by this response. No claims are canceled, and new claim 8 is added. Following entry of these amendments and remarks, claims 1-8 will remain pending.

As a threshold matter, Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of the need to formally submit certain references for consideration in an information disclosure statement (IDS). Accordingly, an IDS is being filed herewith.

Claim 7 was rejected as purportedly being drawn to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 7 has now been amended in the manner indicated in order to overcome this rejection.

Turning now to address rejection of the claims based upon purported prior art, embodiments of the present invention relate to a device for controlling a plurality of other devices by use of numerical parameters. As shown in FIG. 10C (reproduced below), particular embodiments utilize a likelihood (S) in combination with a weighting factor (J) as criteria in controlling a device:

WHEN PROCESS IN TG101	WHEN PROCESS IN CN101	WHEN PROCESS IN QB101
W51 = 0.5	W51 = 0.1	W51 = 0.01
W52 = 0.25	W52 = 0.5	W52 = 0.1
W53 = 0.125	W53 = 0.25	W53 = 0.5
W54 = 0.25	W54 = 0.5	W54 = 0.05
W55 = 0.125	W55 = 0.25	W55 = 0.5
(c-1)	(c-2)	(c-3)

The products of the likelihoods S determined for the wires W51 and W53 and the weighting factors J are as indicated by equations 1 and 2.

(Equation 1) Product J·S of likelihood S and weighting factor J for wire 51: score of 80% for "hot" x weighting factor J (=0.5) of wire W51 = 40

(Equation 2) Product J·S of likelihood S and weighting factor J of wire W53: score of 50% for "window" x weighting factor 0.125 of wire W53 = 6.25

Further, the device control device controls a device by increasing and decreasing numerical parameters, such as, sound volume, opening and closing amount of the window, and the temperature. (See at least ¶[0021-22], ¶[0027-28], ¶[0089], and ¶[0090].

Accordingly, independent claim 1 has now been amended to recite in part:

1. A device control device . . . comprising:
constant storage means that stores in advance a phrase and a predetermined constant in association with each other;
speech recognition means that acquires speech data representing a speech, and performs speech recognition on said speech data, thereby specifying a candidate for a phrase included by said speech and computes a likelihood for each specified candidate; and
device control means that specifies those devices which are controllable of said plurality of devices, and an amount of change of said numerical parameter based on the predetermined constant associated with the specified phrase and the likelihood that have been computed by said speech recognition means, and changes the numerical parameter by the specified amount of change to thereby control the specified devices (Emphasis added)

Claims 1-7 stand rejected as obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,584,439 Geilhufe, *et al.*, ("the Geilhufe Patent"), taken in combination with U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0128846 to Miller ("the Miller Publication"). These rejections are overcome as follows.

The Geilhufe Patent and the Miller Publication do relate to controlling devices by speech recognition. These references, however, merely disclose judging a word by speech recognition and performing processing in accordance with that word.


Unlike the claimed embodiments, the Geilhufe Patent and the Miller Publication references do not disclose or suggest anything about controlling the devices by increasing and decreasing numerical parameters. Moreover, neither reference discloses controlling devices through a likelihood and weighting factor.

In view of the failure of the references relied upon by the Examiner to teach, or even suggest, all of the elements of the pending claims, it is respectfully asserted that those claims cannot be considered obvious. Continued rejection of the claims is improper, and the claim rejections should be withdrawn.

Response to Office Action Mailed May 2, 2008

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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